

6 August 1973

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Dear

Back in October 1972 when I first wrote the CIA requesting summer employment, I fully expected that such a job would be a most interesting experience. Now, in retrospect, I am pleased to report that my level of disappointment is much less than is normal in such a situation.

Having studied in Poland and Russia in previous summers, I was well aware of my "position" in joining on as an employee of CIA. Yet in all fairness I felt compelled to join on, first, to see for myself the workings of an organization I had heard so much about, and second, to see just how CIA fitted into my career plans. I am glad to say that, from my point of view at least, I liked what I did this summer, and would like to see more next summer.

From my perspective, I am interested in a career in public service, with opportunities for residence abroad. As no friend of totalitarian communism, I would particularly (though not exclusively) like to do what I can to liberate from their yoke what appear to me to be the last truly "captive" peoples in the world, the people of Russia and Eastern Europe, with whom I share a cultural heritage. As a law student I see 2 paths open to me (though there may be others not presently visible): 1. Pursuing an independent course by directly joining a private U.S. Corporation engaged in commercial relations with communist countries. 2. Joining the U.S. government and working for U.S. world interests, which in many past instances have proved to be noble. Furthermore, I do not see these 2 presently visible paths to be necessarily mutually exclusive.

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This summer (having fully recovered from the humiliating experience of your lie detector test last March, which I fully realize was necessary) I have seen how OCI's Eastern Europe Branch keeps U.S. policymakers informed of current events. I enjoyed the work (though "sharing" duties as a junior analyst has its inherent tensions), which for me meant keeping a hand on the pulse of Poland (though I must express my regret that the patient was somewhat comatose during these summer doldrums). I found Branch Chief  an intelligent and respectable man, inspiring in his commitment to his work. He has an

admirable sense of purpose, born, I believe, of rich experience with life. I acutely felt a sense of inadequacy when comparing myself to him. I also found my co-workers intelligent, committed (many would feel they should be "committed"), and lively, most with broad, irreverent and absolutely irresponsible senses of absurd humor -- very active, flexible, invigorating minds, a pleasure to dance with. I could see myself comfortably working in this office on a permanent basis.

Yet a total committment to OCI seems a wrong thing to do without having had a similar look at your clandestine services, which would allow me the desired opportunity of extended residence abroad. I do not feel that I am utilizing my full spectrum of talents confined to an OCI office, with accompanying comfortably--padded reclining chair, desk, and (of course), air-conditioning (all things I will probably long for; and be sorry I gave up -- when I'm 50). This to me now is an artificial environment, in which I can efficiently function, yet not function at full efficiency. I have foreign language and human relations skills which I feel are somewhat constrained. At my age (22) I do not feel I should suffocate these other talents; rather, I would like to see whether perhaps they might be expressed and developed into professional skills. I get great satisfaction doing something that I do well, and am sure that CIA, like most employers, has room for a good man. In my past experience, I have become aware of an ability to swim into any situation, good or evil, to function therein, and finally to emerge, always my own master. I attribute my successes (while recognizing that my experiences have been limited) to, among other things, an ability to maintain a flexible, somewhat detached, though steady pace of life, never allowing fear to paralyze my actions. I should like to have a close look at your clandestine services at some time, in order that a determination may be made as to whether or not we have a mutuality of interest.

As to the technicalities: I found the Summer Intern Program reasonably informative. The Tuesday meetings cleared up many questions and misconceptions born of idle rumor. For this reason, I would consider them a success and worthwhile. I felt free to ask questions, and felt the answers were honest, direct and thorough. Other questions that came up were readily and enthusiastically answered by my co-workers all of whom, given time, I feel I could consider close personal friends, in particular, [redacted] and [redacted] Along with [redacted] they are all wise men, whose judgment and opinions I deeply respect.

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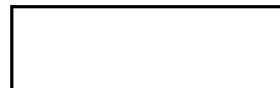
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Would I like to come back to the same OCI-EE office next summer: Yes, enthusiastically. I feel I am on the right track. I am led to believe that I will not next summer, have a chance to get a look at the clandestine services. If such is the case, I accept your judgment; responsible changes in CIA must come slowly, and I am patient. I realize that the organization is in flux; an atmosphere of "Cold-Warriorism" lingers, but is wisely being removed so as to free thinking from paralysis. I realize that the initial investment made in training me as an OCI analyst will only really begin to bear fruit next summer, having this summer's experience under the belt. Moreover, I see the value of sitting in at the OCI analyst's desk: it is good preparation to sit on the actual firing line, reading reports that others send directly from the field. As I often tell myself: "First learn from your own mistakes; then, from the mistakes of others."

In sum, a valuable summer, a practical application of my previous 2 summers experiences in Poland and Russia. I like my work, the people, and the organization. To be sure, the pay is good -- after all, I must maintain myself, and I do want to finish law school (2 more years). Yet more importantly, I feel at peace, confident that I am following John Kennedy's mandate of 12 years ago: "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

Wishing you all a good winter ( if such a thing is possible.)

Sincerely,



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